

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3977

S E C R E T CAIRO 4873

NODIS

FOR UNDERSECRETARY SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS EG US

SUBJECT: EQUIPMENT SALES

REF: CAIRO 1769

1. YOU WILL RECALL THAT, DURING HIS FEBRUARY VISIT, THE SECRETARY AUTHORIZED ME TO INFORM THE EGYPTIANS OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO APPROVE SALE OF JEEPS, FIVE-TON TRUCKS, C-47 HELICOPTERS AND SOME PHOTOGRAPHIC RECONNAISSANCE CAMERAS TO EGYPT. I DID SO, AND MY REPORT IS CONTAINED REFTEL. SUBSEQUENTLY, DURING THE SECRETARY'S LAST ASWAN-JERUSALEM SHUTTLE, I LEARNED THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO HOLD ALL ACTION ON THESE EQUIPMENT SALES. THIS HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN CONVEYED TO THE EGYPTIANS.

2. ONCE APPRISED OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO APPROVE EQUIPMENT SALES, EGYPTIANS TOOK QUICK ACTION ON COMMERCIAL LEVEL. CONTRACT WAS SIGNED WITH AMERICAN MOTORS FOR 1,000 JEEPS AND AMERICAN MOTORS HAS ALSO BEEN DISCUSSING WITH GOE SALE OF FIVE-TON TRUCKS. EGYPTIANS ARE APPARENTLY ASKING THAT SAMPLE VEHICLE BE SENT FOR TESTING AFTER WHICH DECISION WILL BE MADE. ACCORDING AMERICAN MOTORS, "OFFICE OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE," STILL UNWILLING INDICATE WHEN NECESSARY EXPORT LICENSE FOR TEST VEHICLE WILL BE GRANTED.

3. DURING RECENT TALK WITH GENERAL GAMASY, HE

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INDICATED HIS CONTINUING INTEREST IN GETTING US-MANUFACTURED

TRUCKS ASAP, CLAIMING EGYPTIANS HAVE THE MONEY TO PAY FOR THEM. HE DID NOT SEEM TO BE FULLY AWARE OF TRUCK OFFER AMERICAN MOTORS HAD MADE, EITHER BECAUSE MARWAN HAD NOT BRIEFED HIM OR HIS OWN SUBORDINATES HAVE NOT YET BROUGHTY MATTER TO HIS ATTENTION. HE NOTED THAT 100 EGYPTIAN MILITARY TRUCKS ARE NOW ENGAGED IN CIVIC ACTION PROGRAM CARRYING PL 480 WHEAT FROM ALEXANDRIA HARBOR TO A COLLECTION POINT IN THE DESERT. HE WAS INTERESTED TO LEARN OF OUR EARLIER OFFER TO SELL FIVE-TON TRUCKS TO EGYPT, AND STATED HIS DESIRE TO PURCHASE 2,000 SUCH TRUCKS. HE IS ALSO ANXIOUS TO PURCHASE 1,000 ADDITIONAL JEEPS. ALL OF THE JEEPS, AS YOU KNOW, ARE OF THE NON-MILITARY TYPE.

4. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD ADVISE ME WHETHER THE SECRETARY'S EARLIER HOLDING ACTION ON THESE ALREADY PROMISED SALES HAS BEEN LIFTED. I HOPE THAT IT HAS, SINCE SOONER OR LATER THE EGYPTIANS WILL HEAR ABOUT IT AND CHARGE US WITH RENEGING ON A COMMITMENT. IF IT HAS BEEN LIFTED, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF OFFICE OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND STATE'S MUNITIONS CONTROL OFFICER COULD BE ADVISED SO THAT EXPORT LICENSE FOR FIVE-TON TEST TRUCK REQUESTED BY AMERICAN MOTORS COULD BE APPROVED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

5. SEEMS TO ME THIS IS A STRICTLY LEGITIMATE COMMERCIAL SALE. IF AMERICAN TRUCK MANUFACTURERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SELL, FRENCH, BRITISH OR GERMANS WILL DO SO. EILTS

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